

**MILTON OF WHITEHOUSE
LOGIE COLDSTONE
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Standing Building Survey
Carried out 13th February 2015
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2015-8
by
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MILTON OF WHITEHOUSE
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- Standing Building Survey -

1. Background
 - 1.1 A standing building survey was required for a derelict dwelling house at Milton of Whitehouse, Logie Coldstone, Aberdeenshire, prior to its demolition and replacement by a new house.
 - 1.2 The archaeological condition was applied in the context of planning legislation (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP), which states that it is necessary for developers to arrange for archaeological work to take place prior to development, in appropriate circumstances. Planning Application Numbers: APP/2013/1904.
 - 1.3 A Level 1 Standing Building Survey was required which includes measured plans and elevations, a written account of the building's plan, form, function, age and development sequence in addition to a photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the building.
 - 1.4 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake the work by Gerry Robb Architectural Design Services for Findrack (Investment) Ltd. The site element of the survey was completed on the 13th February 2015.
2. Desk-top survey
 - 2.1 A search was carried out in the Sites and Monuments Record, Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire Council and in the Sites and Monuments Records of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland (RCAHMS) through Canmore and Pastmap.
 - 2.2 The 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps were consulted.

2.3 Plans and elevations prepared by Gerry Robb Architectural Design Services have been annotated as necessary.

3. The Site

3.1 The site lies on a private farm road c2km to the E of the A97 between Dinnet and Logie Coldstone. It is situated on a small but prominent knoll at around 200m OD on the lower slopes of Morven.

Parish: Logie Coldstone

NGR NJ 4167 0411

(GPS reading outside centre of building: 341675, 804105)

NMRS No: NJ40SW 22 (NJ4165 0405)

Aberdeenshire SMR: NJ40SW0025



Illus 1 The buildings from the front (E) with Morven behind.

4. Documentary evidence

4.1 **1698 Inventory of manor place of Whitehouse and Milntoun, 1698.** *Gives details of the house and furniture, most of which seems to be in acute disrepair. Items mentioned include 'ane old fashioned press at the Hall fire with three lids, three pair of Bands, but no Lockes no rings no Roses no snecks, the floor of the Hall quite ruinous and the Jeasts supposed no to be*

good ... In the upper Storie ... the one half of the floor wanting and what is extant quite rotten'.

Scottish Record Office Catalogue : GD 181/219 (Aboyne Muniments)

<http://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue>

This account shows that already by the end of the 17th century there was a two-storied hall in a somewhat dilapidated condition.

4.2 1795 Inventory 'At Milltown of Whitehouse'.

The Mansion House is valued at 15.15.4.

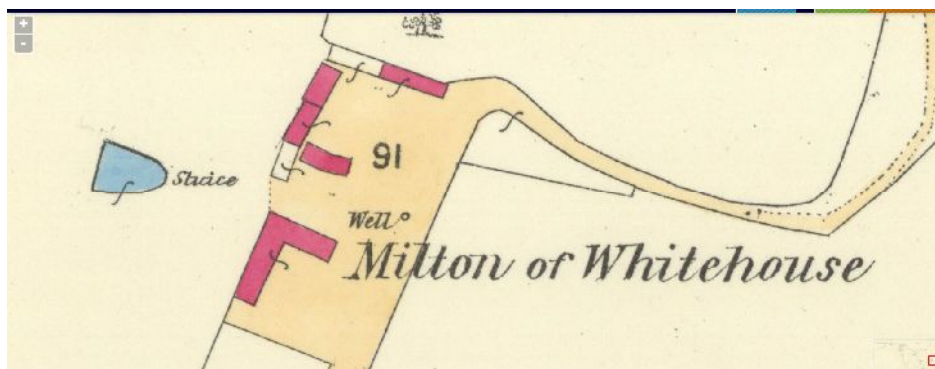
Scottish Record Office Catalogue : GD 181/228 (Aboyne Muniments)

<http://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue>

4.3 Aberdeen Sheet lxxxi.1 (Glenmuick, Tullich and Glengairn) 1867 (pub 1870)

shows buildings on three sides of a square open to the E. On the N side there is a roofed narrow rectangular building with an unroofed structure attached at the N. On the S side there is an oddly curved roofed building. On the W side (the side covered by the present survey) there is a line of three attached rectangular buildings, the N two being roofed.

A separate L-shaped steading lies to the S.



Illus 2 Detail of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25'' map, surveyed in 1867 (published 1870) Sheet lxxxi.1 (Glenmuick, Tullich and Glengairn) www.nls.ac.uk

4.4 By the 2nd edition 25''/mile Ordnance Survey of 1900 (published 1902).

Aberdeenshire Sheet 081.01) the building on the N side has been foreshortened at the W end. The curved or angled S building remains. On the W side (the area of this survey) the unroofed structure at the S end has been removed, the central building

appears to have been rebuilt as two units and the N building has a porch on the E face.

The steading has been slightly extended.



Illus 3 Detail of the 2nd edition 25th/mile Ordnance Survey of 1900 (published 1902. Aberdeenshire Sheet 081.01) www.nls.ac.uk

5 Methodology

5.1 The ground plans (Illus 4,) and elevations (Illus 22) have been annotated to show details which may help in understanding the development and history of the building.

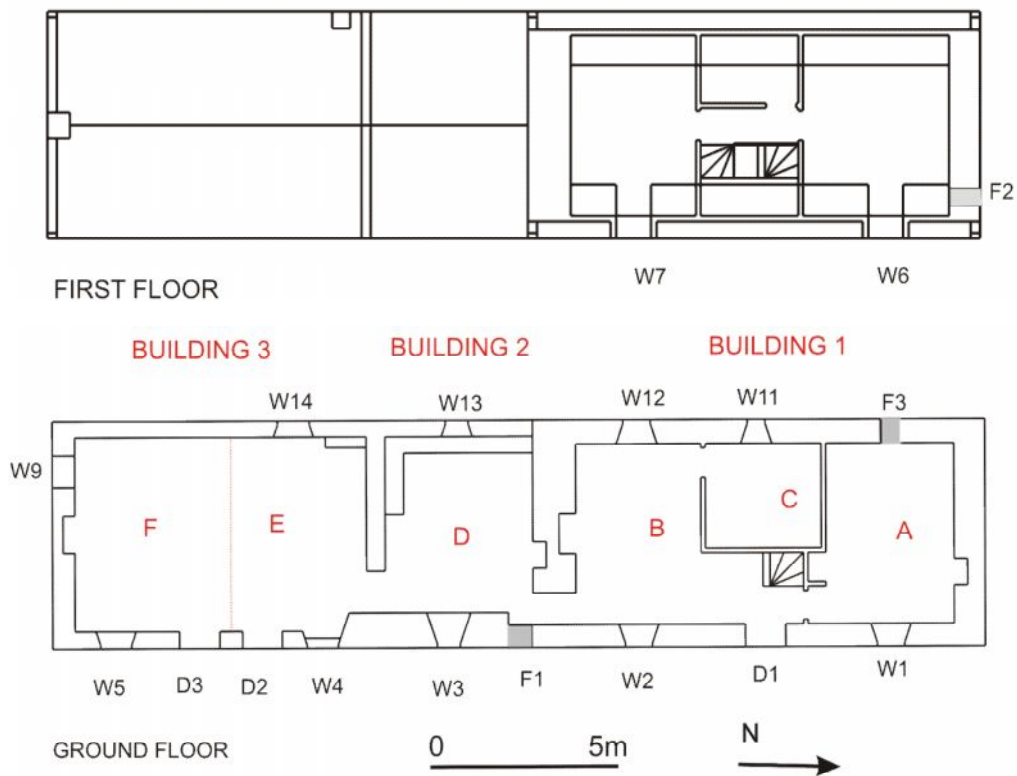
5.2 The areas recorded were photographed. The full set of photographs will be supplied for the archive and an annotated plan in the present report (Illus 27) indicates the position of each.

6 The Buildings

The buildings shown in 1900 are substantially intact, although derelict. They comprise three interconnecting units which will be described separately as they were clearly built at different times.

There was no evidence of either water or electricity ever having been installed.

The OS maps show a well to the E.



Illus 4 Plan annotated from plan courtesy of Gerry Robb Architectural Design Services

6.1 BUILDING 1



Illus 5 Building 1 E wall. Arrow indicates position of date stone

Dimensions 12m N/S 6m E/W externally. 1 ½ storeys with unusually low ceilings at ground floor giving unusual height in first floor.

Present/recent use Derelict

Original use Domestic dwelling

Walls Front (E) wall of regular squared rough-dressed pink granite blocks with regular stacked pinnings. Gable (N) wall appears similar but is obscured by render. Back (W) wall similar stone but lacks the stacked pinnings. Wall thickness: c 600mm.

Date stone 1841 at top of E wall on S end below skew.



Illus 6 Datestone '1841'

Roof Present roof slated but height of skews indicates that the original roof was thatched. A-framed couples of very roughly dressed round timbers.

Chimneys Rectangular chimneys of squared granite. Flat table. Remains of ceramic pots.

Doors and windows

E wall

W1 H:1.14m W: 0.72m. Pinkish rough-dressed granite rybats, lintel and sill.

D1 H: 1.90m W: 1.08m. Pinkish rough-dressed granite rybats, lintel and sill.

Concrete raggles of porch 400mm from either side of door.

W2 H: 1.15m W:0.72m. Pinkish rough-dressed granite rybats, lintel and sill.

W6, W7 H:1.10m W: 0.90m Dormers with slated sides and roof.

W8 H: c 0.60m W: c 0.50m. 2-pane metal skylight.

N wall

F2 H: 0.55m W: 0.54m Stone blocked window into first floor..

W wall

W10 H: 0.58m W: 0.37m Pinkish rough-dressed granite rybats, lintel and sill.

Into first floor

W11 H:0.92m. W:0.46m. Pinkish rough-dressed granite rybats, lintel and sill.

W12 H:1.13m. W:0.73m . Greyer granite lintel, sill and rybats. Sash window surviving.

F3 H: 0.62m W:0.48m. Pinkish rough-dressed granite rybats, lintel and sill.

Originally window into first floor. Stone blocked.



Illus 7 (LHS). Building 1. D1.



Illus 8 (RHS). Building 1. W2 .



Illus 9 (LHS). Building 1. W11.



Illus 10 (RHS). Building 1. W12- different stonework- possible insert

Interior

Ground floor

Ground floor divided into three rooms and a small lobby directly inside the door, with the stair leading up from the lobby.

A: walls lathe and plaster with traces of wall paper. Wooden floor. Fireplace had been removed. Cupboard in wall opposite.

B: Lathe and plaster. Small brick fireplace probably secondary in larger opening.

Concrete floor. Door into Building 2. (Illus 11)

C: No features.



Illus 11 (LHS). Building 1. Interior of Room B looking W.

Illus 12 (RHS). Building 1 stair

First floor

As the stair was broken it was not possible to enter the upper floor (Illus 12).

Looking up the stairwell it was clearly divided into three rooms- one at each gable and a smaller room at the top of the wooden stairs.



Illus 13 Buildings 2 (centre) and 3 (LHS)

BUILDING 2

Dimensions 4.5m N/S x 6m E/W

Present/recent use Derelict

Original use ? Domestic

Walls

F1: c. 0.50m from the SE corner of Building 1, there was a line of three chamfered rybats in the E wall. To the S of this the wall was c. 0.80m thick with roughly dressed reddish granite blocks in good horizontal courses. To the N of this, between it and Building 1, there was infill of smaller stones (Illus 14).



Illus 14 Wall between Building 1 (RHS) and Building 2 (LHS) with infill between (marked by arrows). Three chamfered rybats marked 'a' denote original end or opening in Building 2.

There was an odd projection at the wall head on the inside of the N end of the thicker section of the E wall (Illus 15). This might indicate that there had been a door at this point, rather than the corner of a building.



Illus 15 Inside of thick section of E wall of Building 2. Note projecting stone marked by arrow



Illus 16 Back (W) wall of Building 2 abutting gable of Building 1

The back (W) wall of this central building was of similar granite blocks but was only c. 0.50m thick. Also unlike the front wall, the back wall abutted the gable of Building 1 (Illus 16).

The wall between Buildings 1 and 2 was extremely thick- up to 1.12m and may indicate that the gable of Building 1 was built against an existing wall.

Roof Slate over A-framed couples.

Doors and windows

E wall

W3 H: 1.12m W: 0.60m. Buff/pinkish granite rybats, lintel and sill. All with well-dressed chamfer.

W wall

W13 H: 0.92m W: 0.60m Pinkish rough-dressed granite rybats, lintel and sill.

Interior

D: Walls internally plastered on the stone with no lathe and plaster.

Low concrete step and some associated timber framework around inner face of S and W walls; the function of this was unclear.

Small blocked fireplace (H: 1m. W: 0.69m) on the face of the N wall (Illus 17).



Illus 17 Fireplace in N wall of Building 2 Room D

6.2 BUILDING 3

Dimensions 8.4m N/S x 6m E/W

Present/recent use Derelict

Original use Possibly two bothies.

Walls

E wall S as far as window W 4 the wall was a continuation of the thick E wall of Building 2, c 800mm thick. For the rest of Building 3, the walls were c. 500mm thick of mainly buff and pink field stone (a few black stones).

Roof Corrugated tin over A-framed couples.

Chimneys Chimney at S end of squared granite with flat table. Brick chimney (0.50m square) in W wall to stove (?) in room E (Illus 18).



Illus 18 Brick chimney



Illus 19 Building 3 D2. showing use of grey granite lintel with quarry marks



Illus 20 (LHS). Building 3. W5 showing grey granite lintel with quarry marks



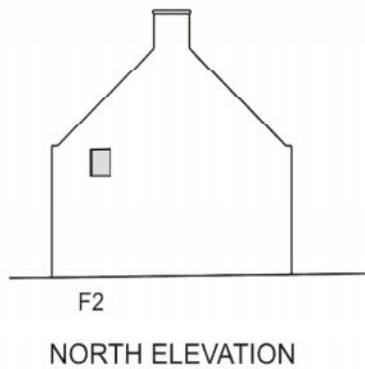
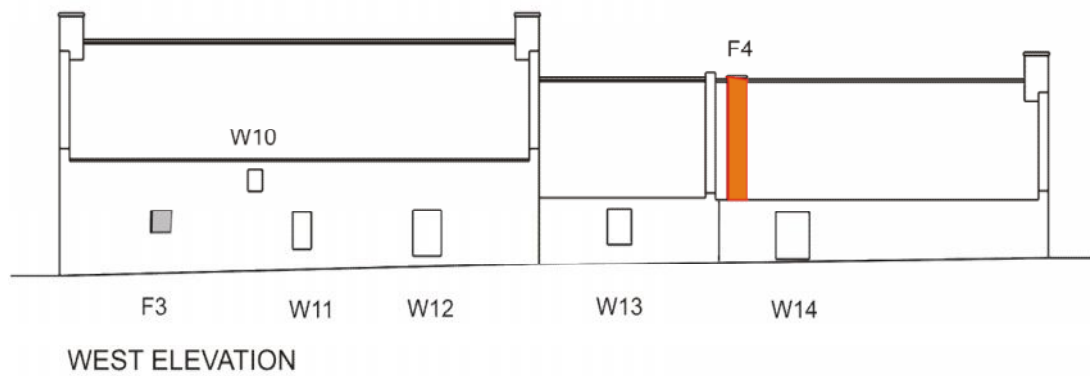
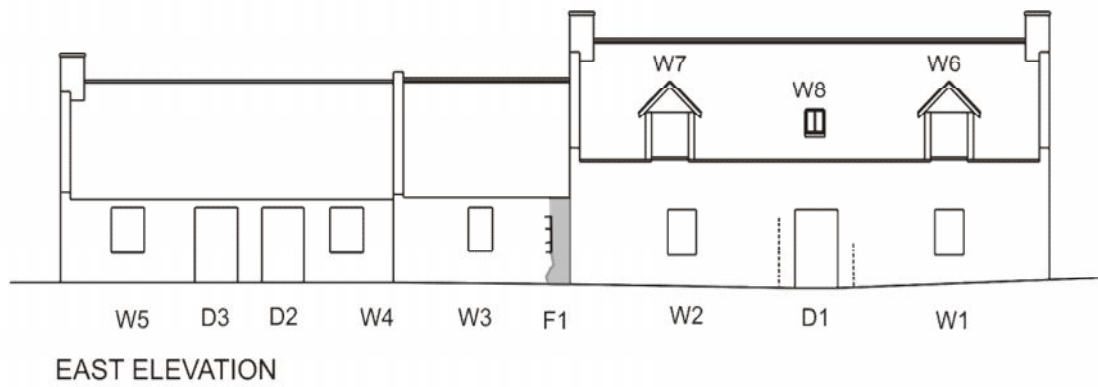
Illus 21 (RHS). Building 3. W 14 showing grey granite lintel.

Doors and windows

E wall

W4 H: 1.15m W: 0.84m Buff/pinkish granite rybats and lintel. All with well dressed chamfer. Sill of grey granite.

D2 H: 1.80m W: 1.07m Rough-dressed granite rybats. Lintel of grey granite with quarry marks showing (Illus 19).



0 5m

Illus 22 Elevations annotated from drawing courtesy of Gerry Robb Architectural Design Services (brick chimney in orange)

D3 H: 1.78m W: 1.09m Rough-dressed granite rybats. Lintel of grey granite with quarry marks showing.

W5 H: 1.15m W: 0.85m Rough-dressed granite rybats. Lintel and sill of grey granite (Illus 20).

S wall

W9 H: 1.16m W: 0.84m. Buff/pinkish granite rybats with well dressed chamfer. Sill and lintel of grey granite (Illus 21).

W wall

W14 H: 1.17m W: 0.86m. Rough-dressed granite rybats. Lintel and sill of grey granite.

Interior

The interior of this building had originally been divided into two rooms; the partition had been removed but its position was clear in the wall render.

E: Concrete blocked setting/fireplace in W wall at N end. Metal flue through the wall above the blocking. This connects to the brick chimney.

F: Small fireplace in centre of S wall.

7 Discussion

Superficially Milton of Whitehouse would appear to be a fairly typical, albeit well-built, 1 ½ storey farmhouse with a date stone that places its construction in 1841 and with two abutting bothies on the W gable.

However, examination of the wall construction and the windows and doors in each section shows a more complex development. The most significant features are the well-dressed chamfered rybats and lintels of window W3 and the rybats at the N end of the thick section of the E wall in Building 2. Identical stonework was re-used for the rybats and lintel of window W4 at the S end of the thick section of the E wall and for the rybats of window W9 both in Building 3. Both of these windows also used grey granite which elsewhere in Building 3 was used for all openings and at the skews (Illus 23-25).

These chamfered stones are superior in workmanship to any of the later stonework- for example around the openings in the mid-19th-century Building 1. In isolation they could be interpreted as all having been salvaged from a higher status building nearby. However, in association with a section of wall in Building 2 (and part of Building 3) that is c.800mm thick instead of the 500-600mm thickness used elsewhere, it appears that a small part of an earlier higher status building remains in situ and survives in the E wall of Building 2, windows W3

and part of W4, and possibly the S side of the very thick gable between Buildings 1 and 2.

This is of particular interest as the Aboyne Muniments include documents dated 1698 and 1795 (see 4.1 and 4.2 above) which refer to a 2-storied manor house named Milton of Whitehouse that was already dilapidated in 1698 and which could therefore have been built in the early 17th century or before. It can reasonably be argued that the early parts of the structure noted above are a remnant of the earlier manor (Illus 26).



Illus 23 Building 2, W3 showing well dressed chamfered stones at margins.



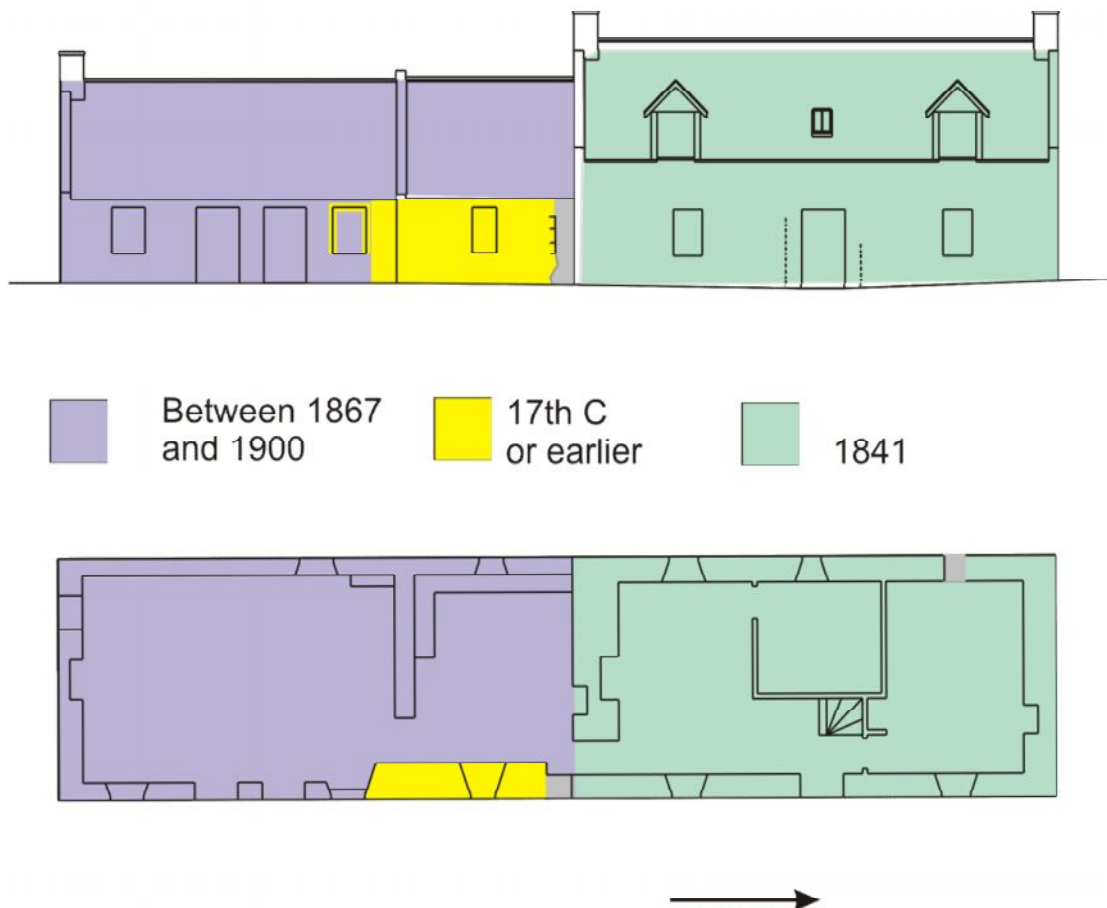
Illus 24 (LHS). Building 3. W4 showing re-use of chamfered stones at sides and lintel but replacement granite sill.



Illus 25 (RHS). Building 3. W9 showing re-use of chamfered stones at sides but with grey granite lintel and sill.

By the 1st OS map of 1867, the 1 1/2 –storied farmhouse had been built in 1841, probably abutting the remnant of the manor, the central building on the 1867 map – interestingly shown as slightly narrower than the 1841 structure (a 19th-century re-building of the back wall on a slightly wider plan would create the existing situation of the back wall of Building 2 abutting Building 1). An unroofed building lay to the S.

By 1900, on the footprint of that central building, there were two separate units depicted on the revised OS map (named Buildings 2 and 3 in this report). Building 2 and part of the E wall of Building 3, as argued above, incorporate some earlier stonework and there is evidence of re-use of dressed stones throughout these buildings. The S unroofed structure had been removed.



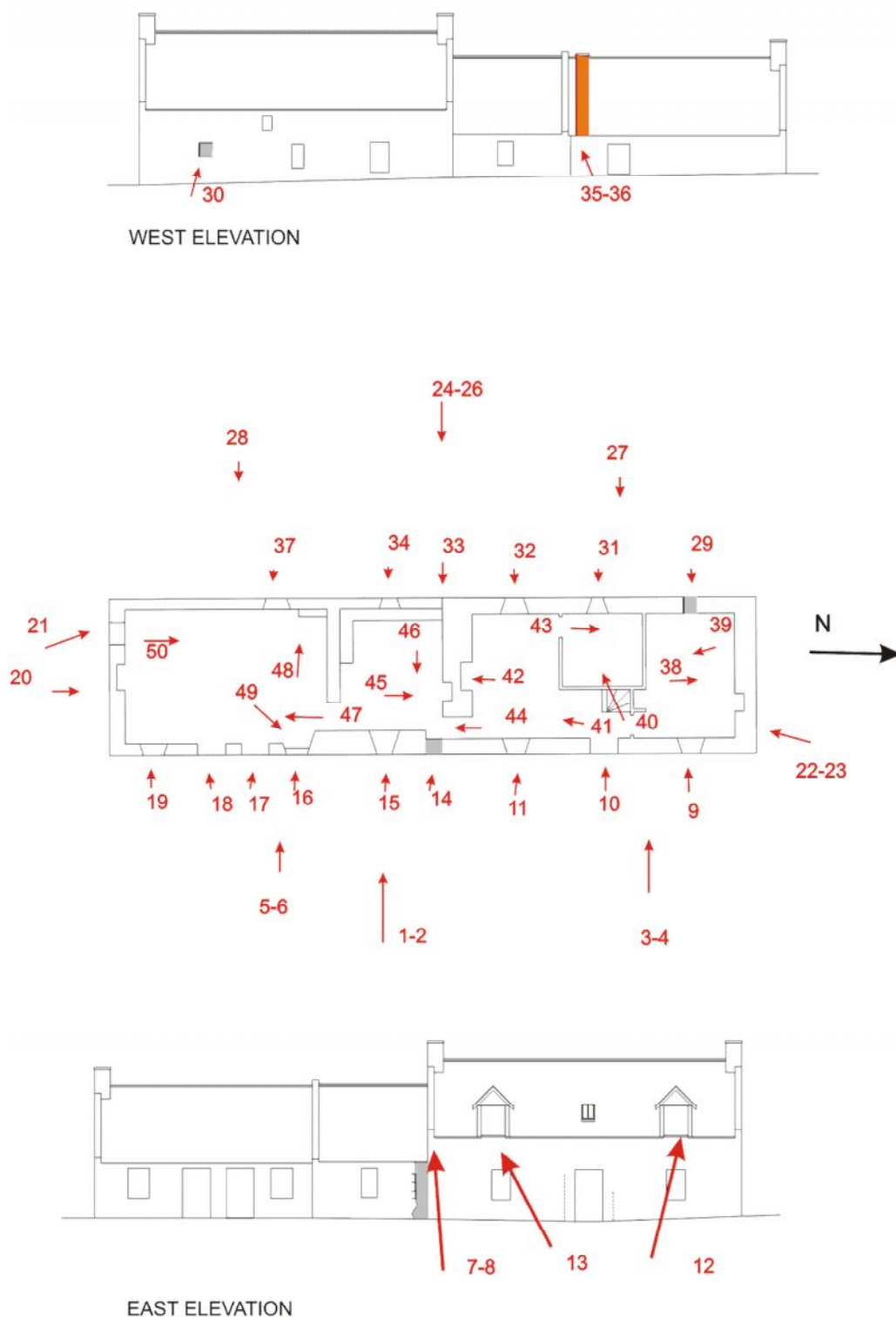
Illus 26 Interpretation of the different phases of construction.

The OS maps show that the surviving buildings formed one side of a 3-sided courtyard open to the E. Nothing now remains of the building shown on the S side but there is a tumble of stones on the footprint of the N range. The ‘yard’ between the ranges retains some traces of a rough stone paving/surface.

Part of the 19th-century farm steading survives among the farm buildings on lower ground to the S.

8 Archive

A full set of photographs with the photo location plan (Illus 27) will be supplied to the Aberdeenshire SMR in Aberdeen and to the NMRS.



Illus 27 Key to photographs

General photographs

51 Steading to S

52 Stone heap toN, possible site of earlier building

53-54 View of site from road, looking W